Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 115811

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ORIGIN SS-25

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O 170128Z MAY 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

SECRETSTATE 115811

EXDIS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH

SUBJECT: U.S.-THAI RELATIONS

REF; BANGKOK 8603

- 1. NOW THAT THE MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR IS BEHIND US, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FROM YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON HOW WE CAN REPAIR THE DAMAGE DONE TO OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THAILAND AS A CONSEQUENCE OF WHAT WE HAD TO DO TO RESCUE THE SHIP AND CREW. WE ARE MOST INTERESTED IN YOUR VIEWS ON THE PROBABLE IMPACT OF OUR ACTIONS ON OUR MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND AND THE PROSPECTS OF MAINTAINING THE KINDS OF ARRANGEMENTS WE WILL NEED IF WE ARE TO KEEP ANY FORCES THERE OVER THE LONGER TERM.
- 2. IN FORMULATING YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS, YOU SHOULD PROCEED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO FAVORABLY CONSIDER YOUR RECOMMENDATION (REFTEL) THAT WE TURN OVER TO THE THAI EX-CAMBODIAN MAP AND EXSECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 115811

VIETNAMESE MASF/DAV EQUIPMENT REMAINING IN THAILAND, IF YOU BELIEVE THERE IS SOME POSSIBILITY OF ENHANCING THAI RECEPTIVITY TO A RESIDUAL PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES THEREBY. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE COMPETING DEMANDS FOR SOME OF THIS EQUIPMENT AND

IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO TURN IT ALL OVER TO THE THAI EVEN IN THE EVENT DOING SO WOULD IMPROVE THE ATMOSPHERE OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THEM ON OUR MILITARY PRE SENCE. WE ALSO NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION FBIS REPORTS FROM KUALA LUMPUR THAT CHATCHAI SAID THAILAND WOULD RETURN ALL THE EX-CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE EQUIPMENT TO THE NEW PHNOM PENH AND SAIGON REGIMES, A PROSPECT WHICH WE CANNOT ACCEPT.

- 3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT ON U.S.-THAI RELATIONS OF REQUESTING AN FY 76 MAP PROGRAM AT ABOUT THE \$50 MILLION RATHER THAN \$30 MILLION LEVEL, PARTICULARLY AS IT WOULD AFFECT OUR PROSPECTS FOR MAINTAINING A RESIDUAL MILITARY PRESENCE. (IN THIS REGARD, WE SHOULD HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE LIKELIHOOD OF CONGRESS APPROPRIATING ANYWHERE NEAR ENOUGH MONEY TO FUND FULLY A \$50 MILLION PROGRAM.)
- 4. FINALLY, WE ARE ALSO CONSIDERING A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT EXPLAINING OUR ACTIONS DURING THE MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR IN TERMS SIMILAR TO THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO CONGRESS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCH A LETTER HAVING A SALUTARY EFFECT ON THE RTG IN PARTICULAR AND IN THAILAND IN GENERAL. KISSINGER

SECRET

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